A former paramedic who worked for several Northland ambulance services was sentenced in federal court today for diluting pain-relieving drugs supplied to an ambulance service in Pleasant Valley, Mo.

Craig Starr was sentenced to five years and three months in federal prison without parole.

Starr admitted that on two occasions he removed Demerol from its vials and substituted it with another substance.

Starr abused his position of trust and jeopardized the health and well-being of ambulance patients under his care. Starr's conduct was reprehensible and the court has held him accountable for his illegal actions.